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Artisan Associations Compete Among Themselves

Vecherni Novini, Sofia, 16 Oct 1951

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ARTISAN ASSOCIATIONS COMPETE AMONG THEMSELVES -- Sofia,
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Together with all working people, the associated artisans this year have also taken an active part in the noble competition for higher quality and for improving the commercial and productive activity of artisan associations. The new socialist methods and forms of labor are being adopted with each passing day by artisan associations. Things like overfulfilling production plans, increasing labor productivity, reducing production costs, improving the quality and increasing the diversity of products are everyday concerns of artisan associations. In addition, Bulgarian artisan associations are applying criticism and self-criticism, taking measures for the cultural servicing of the citizens, rewarding production workers and shock-workers who have distinguished themselves, supporting the rationalization movement, exchanging experiences, etc. These socialist methods have already produced very fine results.

This year for the first time Bulgarian artisan associations have accounted for their achievements through the rayon artisan cooperative federations. A serious attempt has been made for the first time to introduce a single and general competitive system. The rayon federations at Plovdiv, Ruse, Stalin, Pleven, etc have reported that the results of their activity have been satisfactory.

The Plovdiv Rayon Federation launched an extensive competitive drive in its rayon, involving 55 artisan associations. The plan for the first half year was fulfilled by 102 percent in value and 106 percent in kind. The associations increased their labor

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productivity by 14 percent, reduced production costs by 7.6 percent, fulfilled their plan as to the variety of products by 100 percent and considerably improved the quality of their production. The "Metal" Artisan Association at Plovdiv, which won first place in the competition, fulfilled its production plan by 116 percent, reduced production costs by 11 percent, increased labor productivity by 16 percent and, by turning out high grade goods, fulfilled the plan in variety by 100 percent, for which they won the transferable red banner in the 9 September competition. The champion shock-worker in Plovdiv Rayon is the woman Comrade Ya. Sukhanyan, of the "1 May" Dress-Makers Association, who fulfilled her quota by 214 percent, turned out products of excellent quality and displayed model labor discipline. Runner-up in Plovdiv Rayon is the woman shock-worker, Comrade Evtimiya Radivcheva, of the "Persijski Kilim" Persian Rug Artisan Association at Panagyurishte, who fulfilled her quota by 200 percent.

The Ruse Rayon Federation realized economies of 2 percent, reduced production costs by 4 percent and increased labor productivity by 8 percent. 85 new models of artisan products have been placed on the market, showing that there is a concern for increasing the variety of goods. The "Solidarnost" (Solidarity) Artisan Association at Ruse distinguished itself by turning out 18 new models, and it worked for 3 whole days with economized materials. In the 9 September competition 22 associations from the Ruse Rayon participated. At Silistra and Razgrad two expositions were organized at which the population had an opportunity to see what the artisan associations have produced.

Of the members of the Khaskovo Rayon Artisan Cooperative Federation, the "Rodopa" Shoe-Makers Association worked best of all and made considerable improvements in the quality of its production.

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In the same rayon, in the metal branch, the "V. Kolarov" Association at Maritsa distinguished itself by fulfilling its plan by 130 percent and by completely satisfying the needs of the population for services and repairs. The same association has challenged all cart-building and blacksmiths' associations in the country to a competition.

In the rayon of the Sofia Rayon Federation 67 artisan associations have been active, fulfilling the tasks assigned to them. The "Svetlina" Light Artisan Association fulfilled its plan by 127 percent, increased labor productivity by 3 percent, fulfilled its plan in variety by 100 percent and turned out high grade production. The "8 September" Foundry Association fulfilled its production plan by 112 percent. The "Osvobozhdenie" (Liberation) Dry Goods Association; the "Yavor" Carpenters' Association; the "Markostroy", "Tekhnikokoop" (Technical Cooperative), "Kooptrud" (Cooperative Labor), "Kozhizdel" (Leather Products), and "Stalin" associations; the "Tvorets" (Creator) Carpenters' Construction Association; the "Dim. Blagoev" Tailors' Association and others have made great efforts to increase the volume and improve the quality of their production. The "Dim. Blagoev" Tailors' Association rewarded the shock-worker Comrade Ivan Seizov, machinist, 9 times. By August of this year he had fulfilled 2 years and 7 months of the Dimitrov Five-Year Plan, and Petur Sinadiyski of the same association had fulfilled 2 years and 1 month of the Five-Year Plan.

The Bulgarian artisan associations have made great progress in the struggle for using domestic raw materials. The "Khudozhestven Tekstil" (Artistic Textile) Artisan Association at Ruse converted its entire production by using domestic raw materials and waste pro-

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ducts. The "Podem" (Uplift) Artisan Association at Ruse in August of this year remodeled 10,000 rejected spades and lime rakes. The "Brodshvepletkoop" (Embroidery, Sewing and Knitting Cooperative) Artisan Association used waste products exclusively in making children's clothes which turned out to be of very fine quality. The "Knitkoop" Artisan Association made abacuses and clothespins out of wood scrap. For its production of pyrographic wooden boxes and towel-hangers the "Stuklo" (Glass) Artisan Association at Ruse uses wood scrap exclusively, and the "Metalik" Artisan Association at Razgrad makes small funnels out of sheet-iron waste and hoops for tractor-drawn ploughs from steel scrap.

The Bulgarian artisan associations hold many more rich potentialities which must be uncovered and put to use. This will become possible when the cooperators pool all their energy and use the socialist working methods, namely the constant competition to fulfill the plan before the set date, and the fight for economies, reduced production costs, increased labor productivity and improved quality of the goods produced.

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